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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHUE VUE, } Case No. ED CV 15-00165 VBF (JCG)  
Petitioner, } ORDER  
v. } Overruling Petitioner's Objections,  
JEFFREY BEARD, SECRETARY OF } Adopting the R&R, Dismissing Habeas  
PRISONS, CALIFORNIA } Petition With Prejudice as Untimely;  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, } Denying an Evidentiary Hearing;  
Respondent. } Denying a Certificate of Appealability

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Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, the Court has reviewed the habeas corpus petition (Document (“Doc”)) 1, the Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation (Doc 5) (“R&R”), petitioner’s timely objections to the R&R (Doc 5)<sup>1</sup>, the remaining record, and

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“Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b)(2) expressly authorizes parties to respond to an adversary’s objections to a Magistrate Judge’s R&R” within 14 days after being served with a copy of those objections. *See Ismail v. Ford*, 2014 WL 1681993, \*1 n.2 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 29, 2014). Respondent was deemed served with the objections when petitioner’s counsel e-filed them on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, *see* C.D. Cal. LCivR 5-3.2.1 (Service of Documents Filed Electronically - Service). Respondent’s fourteen-day response period began running the next day, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, and continued to run on every calendar day, including weekends. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a)(1)(A) and (B). Accordingly, respondent had the right to e-file a response to the objections no later than midnight on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. *See* C.D. Cal. LCivR LCivR 5.4-1. The Court waited until that deadline was well past before ruling.

1 the applicable law, and has made a *de novo* determination. Petitioner's objections  
 2 generally lack merit for the reasons set forth in the R&R. There are two issues, however,  
 3 that warrant brief amplification here.

4 First, in his Objections at 4-5, petitioner argues that for purposes of calculating the  
 5 federal filing limitation period under AEDPA, his conviction became final not 60 days  
 6 after his sentencing, but 60 days after the denial of his motion to withdraw his plea.

7 **Preliminarily, Petitioner is mistaken as to when his conviction became final**  
 8 **for AEDPA purposes.** *See, e.g., Titus v. LeGrand*, 2014 WL 880905, at \*3-4 (D. Nev.  
 9 Mar. 5, 2014) (where petitioner pled guilty and was sentenced, and later lost a motion to  
 10 withdraw his plea, his conviction became final for AEDPA purposes upon the expiration  
 11 of the time to file a direct appeal, or 30 days after the entry of his plea, sentence, and  
 12 judgment of conviction). In other words, because Petitioner pled guilty and was  
 13 sentenced on September 29, 2011, the Magistrate Judge correctly found that Petitioner's  
 14 conviction became final on November 28, 2011, and that his AEDPA filing deadline  
 15 expired on November 28, 2012. *See* Pet. at 2, 11-14; *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(A)  
 16 (judgment becomes final either "by the conclusion of direct review or the expiration of  
 17 the time for seeking such review"); Cal. R. Ct. 8.308(a) ("a notice of appeal . . . must be  
 18 filed within 60 days after the rendition of the judgment . . ."); *Mendoza v. Carey*, 449 F.3d  
 19 1065, 1067 (9th Cir. 2006) (where petitioner does not appeal, "his conviction bec[omes]  
 20 final . . . 60 days after the judgment of conviction").

21 **Moreover, even if the Court were to use the starting date proposed by**  
 22 **Petitioner – 60 days after January 6, 2012, when his plea-withdrawal motion was**  
 23 **denied – his Petition would still be untimely.** *See* Objections at 5; *see also* 28 U.S.C.  
 24 § 2244(d)(1)(A). That is, even if his conviction was not final until March 6, 2012, then  
 25 365 untolled days would have passed before he filed his first state habeas petition on  
 26 March 6, 2013. (Pet. Ex A) Thus, while Petitioner would have been entitled to statutory  
 27 tolling during the pendency of his state habeas petitions, his federal petition would have  
 28 been due *just one day after* completion of state collateral review. *See* 28 U.S.C.

1       § 2244(d)(1)-(2); *Biggs v. Duncan*, 339 F.3d 1045, 1048 (9th Cir. 2003). Notably,  
 2 Petitioner's third and final state habeas petition was denied on March 26, 2014, yet  
 3 Petitioner did not file this petition until *nearly ten months later*, on January 20, 2015.  
 4 (Pet. at 3-5, 8; Pet. Ex C) As such, statutory tolling does not render the petition timely.

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 6       **Second, Petitioner objects that he is entitled to equitable tolling, but his**  
 7 **argument is unpersuasive.** (Objections at 5-6.) As a rule, AEDPA's limitation period  
 8 is subject to equitable tolling only if Petitioner can show that (1) he pursued his rights  
 9 diligently and (2) an "extraordinary circumstance prevented timely filing." *Yeh v. Martel*,  
 10 751 F.3d 1075, 1077 (9th Cir.), *cert. denied sub nom. Yeh v. Biter*, 83 U.S.L.W. 3286, –  
 11 U.S. –, 135 S. Ct. 486 (2014). Simply put, the threshold for triggering equitable tolling  
 12 is exceedingly high. *Porter v. Ollison*, 620 F.3d 952, 959 (9th Cir. 2010).

13       Here, Petitioner asks the Court "to acknowledge Petitioner's belief in his proper  
 14 timeline as an extraordinary circumstance." (Objections at 6.) However, Petitioner's  
 15 confusion regarding legal deadlines does not constitute an "extraordinary circumstance"  
 16 that would "make it impossible to file a petition on time." *Miranda v. Castro*, 292 F.3d  
 17 1063, 1065 (9th Cir. 2002) (citation omitted); *see also Raspberry v. Garcia*, 448 F.3d  
 18 1150, 1154 (9th Cir. 2006) ("[A] petitioner's lack of legal sophistication is not, by itself,  
 19 an extraordinary circumstance warranting equitable tolling."); *Gazzeny v. Yates*, 2009 WL  
 20 294199, at \*5 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 4, 2009) ("A prisoner's . . . ignorance of the law do[es] not  
 21 constitute [an] extraordinary circumstance[.]"); *Singletary v. Newland*, 2001 WL  
 22 1220738, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 28, 2001) ("A misunderstanding of the complexities of  
 23 federal habeas relief is not considered an extraordinary circumstance[.]").

24       Thus, he is not entitled to any equitable tolling, and the petition remains untimely.

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 26       Additionally, petitioner has not shown that he is entitled to a certificate of  
 27 appealability ("COA"). For the reasons set forth in the R&R, the Court finds that  
 28 petitioner has not shown that "jurists of reason would find it debatable whether": (1) "the

1 petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right”; and (2) that “the  
 2 district court was correct in its procedural ruling.” *See Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473,  
 3 483-84, 120 S. Ct. 1595 (2000). The Court is mindful that it “must resolve doubts about  
 4 the propriety of a COA in the petitioner’s favor”, *Jennings v. Woodford*, 290 F.3d 1006,  
 5 1010 (9th Cir. 2002) (citing *Lambright v. Stewart*, 220 F.3d 1022, 1025 (9th Cir. 2000)  
 6 (en banc)), but no such doubt exists here.

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 8 Finally, petitioner is not entitled to an evidentiary hearing. AEDPA “requires an  
 9 examination of the state court-decision at the time it was made. It follows that the record  
 10 under review is limited to the record in existence at that same time *i.e.*, the record before  
 11 the state court.” *Cullen v. Pinholster*, – U.S. –, –, 131 S. Ct. 1388, 1398 (2011).

12 “*Moreover, an evidentiary hearing is not warranted where, as here, ‘the record*  
 13 *refutes the applicant’s factual allegations or otherwise precludes habeas relief.’”* *Romero*  
 14 *v. Lewis*, 2013 WL 2177885, \*20 (C.D. Cal. May 17, 2013) (quoting *Schriro v.*  
 15 *Landrigan*, 550 U.S. 465, 474, 127 S. Ct. 1933, 1940 (2007)) (emphasis added). The  
 16 record here precludes habeas relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, because it clearly shows  
 17 that petitioner has failed to justify equitable tolling and has failed to comply with the  
 18 AEDPA limitations period governing these claims. Our Circuit holds that when a habeas  
 19 claim is facing dismissal as untimely, the “habeas petitioner is entitled to an evidentiary  
 20 hearing when the petitioner ‘makes a good-faith allegation that would, if true, entitle him  
 21 to equitable tolling.’” *Daly v. Knipp*, 585 F. App’x 647, 648 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Roy*  
 22 *v. Lampert*, 465 F.3d 964, 968 (9th Cir. 2006)). While petitioner Vue may have made a  
 23 good-faith allegation about his misunderstanding of the AEDPA limitations period, he is  
 24 not entitled to equitable tolling even if the Court credits his allegation as true, as  
 25 explained in the R&R. *See Robinson v. Neven*, 584 F. App’x 801, 802 (9th Cir. 2014)  
 26 (“[B]ecause Robinson has not alleged facts that would entitle him to equitable tolling, it  
 27 was not an abuse of discretion for the district court to decline to order an evidentiary  
 28 hearing.”).

## ORDER

Petitioner Vue's objection [Doc # 8] is OVERRULED.

The Report and Recommendation [Doc #5] is ADOPTED.

This action is **DISMISSED** with prejudice as untimely.

A Certificate of Appealability is **DENIED**.

If petitioner wishes to appeal, he must obtain a certificate of appealability from the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. *See De Adams v. Hedgpeth*, 2015 WL 114163, \*10 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 7, 2015) (“If the court denies a certificate, the parties may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22.”) (quoting Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing 28 U.S.C. § 2254 Habeas Proceedings in the U.S. District Courts).

As required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 58(a), final judgment will be entered by separate document. *See Jayne v. Sherman*, 706 F.3d 994, 1009 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2013).<sup>2</sup>

DATED: May 4, 2015

Valerie Baker Fairbairn

HON. VALERIE BAKER FAIRBANK  
Senior United States District Judge

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“To comply with Rule 58, an order must (1) be self-contained and separate from the opinion; (2) note the relief granted; and (3) omit or substantially omit the district court’s reasons for disposing of the claims.” *Elkins v. Foulkes*, 2014 WL 2615732, \*14 n.4 (C.D. Cal. June 12, 2014) (quoting *Daley v. USAO*, 538 F. App’x 142, 143 (3d Cir. 2013) (per curiam)). “A combined document denominated an Order and Judgment, containing factual background, legal reasoning, as well as a judgment, generally will not satisfy the rule’s prescription.” *In re Taumoepeau*, 523 F.3d 1213, 1217 (10th Cir. 2008).